

**REMARKS**

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 3-4 are pending in this application. Claims 1-2 and 5-15 are canceled.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 3 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. In response, claims 3 and 4 have been amended to include the limitations of independent claim 2. Claims 1-2 and 5-15 are canceled. Accordingly, Applicants believe all remaining claims (3 and 4) are now in condition for allowance.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

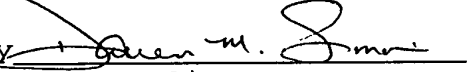
Application No.: 10/550,234

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-365

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Dated: October 4, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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